

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 07736 281148Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-11 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 CEQ-01
CG-00 DLOS-09 DOTE-00 EPA-01 FMC-01 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSF-01 PA-01 /155 W
-----086999 281219Z /15

P 281016Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7553
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, ENRG, PINS, PINT, CH, KS, JA
SUBJECT: DIET EXTENSION PROBABLE

REF: (A) TOKYO 6867; (B) TOKYO 07555

SUMMARY: PROGRESS ON LEGISLATION IMPLEMENTING JAPAN-ROK
CONTINENTAL SHELF AGREEMENT HAVING BEEN SLOWER THAN EX-
PECTED, LDP IS LIKELY TO EXTEND CURRENT DIET SESSION BY
TWO-TO-FOUR WEEKS IN ATTEMPT TO PASS IT. LDP EFFORTS
TO GET SUPPORT OF MODERATE OPPOSITION FOR SPECIAL NARITA
AIRPORT SECURITY BILL HAVE BEEN MORE SUCCESSFUL; AND
PROSPECTS FOR PASSAGE OF BILL BEFORE AIRPORT'S SCHEDULED
MAY 20 OPENING ARE VERY GOOD. END SUMMARY.
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1. IT HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY CLEAR THAT DOMESTIC LEGIS-
LATION IMPLEMENTING JAPAN-ROK AGREEMENT ON EXPLOITATION
OF CONTINENTAL SHELF WILL NOT PASS BEFORE SCHEDULED MAY
17 END OF DIET SESSION. BECAUSE OF OPPOSITION DELAYING
TACTICS, SERIES OF HOLIDAYS IN FIRST WEEK OF MAY, AS WELL
AS PRIMIN'S TRIP TO US, UPPER HOUSE COMMITTEE DELIBERA-

TIONS WILL NOT COMMENCE TILL MAY 9, ALMOST TWO WEEKS LATER THAN LDP DIET MANAGERS HAD ORIGINALLY HOPED. EMBASSY'S LDP AND OPPOSITION PARTY CONTACTS ARE NOW SAYING THAT EXTENSION WILL BE NECESSARY IF BILL IS TO PASS THIS SESSION. ACCORDINGLY, LDP DIET MANAGERS ARE REPORTEDLY MEETING TODAY TO CONSIDER TWO-TO-FOUR WEEK EXTENSION.

2. ON MORE POSITIVE SIDE, LDP REACHED AGREEMENT WITH THREE MODERATE OPPOSITION PARTIES THIS WEEK ON SPECIAL SECURITY BILL GIVING POLICE EXPANDED POWERS TO CONTROL RADICALS IN AREA AROUND NARITA AIRPORT. ALTHOUGH SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS STILL STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL, IT IS EXPECTED TO BECOME LAW WITH NLC, DSP AND CGP SUPPORT IN SECOND WEEK OF MAY IN TIME FOR SCHEDULED OPENING OF AIRPORT ON MAY 20.

3. COMMENT: GIVEN PRIMIN'S ANNOUNCED DETERMINATION TO PASS SHELF LEGISLATION IN THIS SESSION, VIRTUALLY EVERYONE IN TOKYO'S POLITICAL WORLD AGREES THAT LDP WILL DECIDE ON EXTENSION. EVEN WITH EXTENSION, HOWEVER, PASSAGE OF CONTINENTAL SHELF LEGISLATION IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN; TWO NIGHTS AGO LDP'S UPPER HOUSE WHIP FOR BILL INDICATED POSSIBILITY OF CARRYING DELIBERATION OVER TO FALL SESSION (WHICH WOULD CIRCUMVENT FULL CYCLE RECONSIDERATION) MIGHT BE NECESSARY. TO DELIGHT OF MEDIA, WE ARE IN FOR ADDITIONAL WEEKS OF SUSPENSE WITH, AS REFTTEL REPORTED, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EVERY CHANCE THAT SHELF BILL WILL BE BATTLED DOWN TO WIRE. SHERMAN

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NNN

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